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Contact: Gary Yunt
Notes Team Captain
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(303) 981-5629 (mobile)
Gary.Yunt@kyderby.com

RIDER QUOTES FROM THE 145TH RUNNING OF THE KENTUCKY DERBY

LOUISVILLE, KY (Saturday, May 4, 2019) –

Flavien Prat, rider of Country House (1st) – “The race was great. He broke well and put me in the right spot. He was cruising the whole way. I was closer than I thought I would be and then when we hit the final turn, he was just dragging me. I moved him out and made a nice move at the quarter pole. Then, that horse just drifted out, kind of turned me sideways, and there were two horses inside of us. After that, I straightened up, he made a good move and that was it.”

(On claiming foul) “It was a wide move and I thought they (the stewards) had to look at it. Like we said, it slightly bothered us, but it also bothered the two horses inside of us which is I thought they should look at it.”

John Velazquez, rider of Code of Honor (2nd) – “My horse ran great. The rail opened up great for me. It was like ‘Open Sesame.’ I was like “Wow, this never happens.” I thought I was going to win it. He ran like a green horse down the stretch. He was definitely affected by what was happening to his outside.”

Jose Ortiz, rider of Tacitus (3rd) – “My horse ran a huge race. We were a little unlucky since the pace didn’t collapse. Those were good horses in the lead. Country House ran a huge race, too. My horse was digging in late. I had no excuse. In the Belmont, he will be much better running 1 1/2 miles.”

Irad Ortiz Jr., rider of Improbable (4th) – “My horse didn’t really like the track. I asked him to keep up and he just could not.”

Joel Rosario, rider of Game Winner (5th) – “I thought he was going to be sharper at the gate. He broke OK but he stayed there for a little bit. I tried to push him a little early. I thought I was going to be OK because they were going fast at the beginning but he struggled the last three furlongs. He also had a little trouble with the track.”

Julien Leparoux, rider of Master Fencer (JPN) (6th) – “I very much appreciate the connections of this horse for allowing me the opportunity to ride in the Derby.”

Tyler Gaffalione, rider of War of Will (7th) – “I really thought I was going to win the Derby. I checked pretty hard when the seven (Maximum Security) came out as far as he did.”

Ricardo Santana Jr., rider of Plus Que Parfait (8th) – “I thought my horse ran a solid effort. He may not have liked the surface.”

Julian Pimentel, rider of Win Win Win (9th) – “We broke very well from the gate. I was in a great position but I don’t think my horse handled the sloppy track. He tried to make progress but he was spinning over the ground.”

Mike Smith, rider of Cutting Humor (10th) – “He ran good. He’s a nice horse but he is still learning out there.”

Gabriel Saez, rider of By My Standards (11th) –

Javier Castellano, rider of Vekoma (12th) – “It just wasn’t his day today.”

Chris Landeros, rider of Bodexpress (13th) – “I was able to get into a good spot after breaking that far wide. We were in a good spot in the far turn but I had to check pretty hard after the seven (Maximum Security) came out.”

Junior Alvarado, rider of Tax (14th) – “My horse was bothered by the splash in his face. He was not happy about that. He kept trying but he was focused on the mud being kicked in his face.”

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Florent Geroux, rider of Roadster (15th) – “I am disappointed to be honest. He broke all right but never traveled down the stretch the first time. He started picking up horses down the backside, but when I hit the half- mile pole, I was just out of horse. I am not sure if he didn’t like the track but it felt like he never ran.”

Jon Court, rider of Long Range Toddy (16th) – “Well, at least I am still the oldest rider ever to ride in the Derby. It was a lot of fun but I had to stop very abruptly.”

Luis Saez, rider of Maximum Security (1st, DQ’d to 17th) – “I thought I never put anybody in danger. My horse shied away from the noise of the crowd and may have ducked out a little.”

Manny Franco, rider of Spinoff (18th) – “I didn’t think my horse handled the track very well. He felt uncomfortable. From the half-mile pole, I started to ask him for run but he was struggling.”

Drayden Van Dyke, rider of Gray Magician (19th) – “I had a beautiful trip; no trouble whatsoever. He seemed to handle the track well but I just ran out of horse. We’ll come back and fight another day.”

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